

The Gant County Fiscal Court met in Special Session on Monday, March 05, 2007, at 7:00 P.M. at the Grant County Courthouse in Williamstown, Kentucky 41097, with Richard Austin, Magistrate 1<sup>st</sup> District, Present; Brian Linder, Magistrate 2<sup>nd</sup> District, Present; Bobby Young, Magistrate 3<sup>rd</sup> District, Present, and Hon. Darrell Link, County Judge/Executive, Present and Presiding.

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Magistrate Austin opened in prayer. Judge Link then led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Those present were: Mike Shoemaker-Cable TV, and James Perkins.

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Motion of Brian Linder and seconded by Bobby Young it is hereby ordered to approve the minutes of the February 19, 2007, meeting as presented.

The following votes were taken: Richard Austin, Magistrate 1<sup>st</sup> District, votes Yes; Brian Linder, Magistrate 2<sup>nd</sup> District, votes Yes; Bobby Young, Magistrate 3<sup>rd</sup> District, votes Yes; and Hon. Darrell Link, County Judge/Executive, votes Yes.

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Judge Link updated on the Additions to the Agenda.

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Judge Link presented for review and approval the Claims in the General Expense Fund, Road Fund and Jail Fund for the month of March, 2007, along with the transfers needed to pay said claims. He then asked if there were any questions. He gave an update on the Transfers and how they work during the last quarter of a fiscal year in the county budget. Motion of Richard Austin and seconded by Bobby Young it is hereby ordered to approve Claims No. 01-1072 thru 01-1116 in the amount of \$30,472.24 paid out of the General Expense Fund; Claims No. 02-265 thru 02-289 in the amount of \$12,757.37 paid out of the Road Fund and Claims No. 03-361 thru 03-412 in the amount of \$85,914.99 paid out of the Jail Fund for the month of March 2007, along with the transfers presented to pay

said claims.

The following votes were taken: Richard Austin, Magistrate 1<sup>st</sup> District, votes Yes; Brian Linder, Magistrate 2<sup>nd</sup> District, votes Yes; Bobby Young, Magistrate 3<sup>rd</sup> District, votes Yes; and Hon. Darrell L. Link, County Judge/Executive, votes Yes.

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Judge Link presented the Road Supervisor's Report for February. It is as follows: No action is required. He also said that he thought that all of the Magistrates requests that were called in had been taken care of. He also presented the Building Inspector's Report for February and the Canine Control Officer's Report for February. They are as follows: No action is required.

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Judge Link presented for a first reading Ordinance No. 02-2007-602 relating to the Annual Increase of Salaries of Certain Elected Personnel as Provided by KRS 64.527, KRS 64.5275 and KRS 64.530, along with the Notice to run in the local paper showing second reading to be on Monday, March 19, 2007, at 7:00 PM or as soon thereafter as possible, if approved. They are as follows:

Motion of Bobby Young and seconded by Richard Austin it is hereby ordered to approve the first reading of Ordinance No. 02-2007-602 relating to the Annual Increase of Salaries of Certain Elected Personnel as Provided by KRS 64.527, KRS 64.5275 and KRS 64.530, along with the Notice to run in the local paper as presented.

The following votes were taken: Richard Austin, Magistrate 1<sup>st</sup> District, votes Yes; Brian Linder, Magistrate 2<sup>nd</sup> District, votes Yes; Bobby Young, Magistrate 3<sup>rd</sup> District, votes Yes; and Hon. Darrell Link, County Judge/Executive, votes Yes.

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Judge Link presented for review and approval the Amended Form for Budget, Cumulative Quarterly Report and Annual Settlement for Calendar Year 2007 for Grant County Clerk Leatha Conrad. It is as follows: He updated that the County Clerk's Salary

had decreased a little due to being put in step 1 as opposed to Step 2, 3 or 4 in her elected position and the Training Fringe Benefit (HB 810) had increased in the Amended Budget making the additional excess fees about coming back to the county about \$2,500.00.

Motion of Richard Austin and seconded by Brian Linder it is hereby ordered to approve the Amended Form for Budget, Cumulative Quarterly Report and Annual Settlement for Calendar Year 2007 for Grant County Clerk Leatha Conrad as presented

The following votes were taken: Richard Austin, Magistrate 1<sup>st</sup> District, votes Yes; Brian Linder, Magistrate 2<sup>nd</sup> District, votes Yes; Bobby Young, Magistrate 3<sup>rd</sup> District, votes Yes; and Hon. Darrell Link, County Judge/Executive, votes Yes.

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Judge Link presented for review and approval the Appointment of Jeffry Nagy as Deputy Sheriff of Grant County, Kentucky, effective March 12, 2007, as requested by Sheriff Chuck Dills. It is as follows: Judge Link stated that this had been added to the Agenda late today at the request of Sheriff Dills and said the Court could ask Sheriff Dills to come to the next Caucus meeting to discuss this and the put it on the March 19<sup>th</sup> Agenda and take action then or they could approve the request tonight. He said that he had been out this afternoon and did not get to find out much about this. Also Sheriff Dills was to submit a letter to present to the Court for review, but something must have come up because he had not done that either. Discussion was held on him taking his training and when he would be able to work outside the office. Magistrate Austin stated that in the future he would like to see this discussed before submitting it to the Court without their knowledge.

Motion of Richard Austin and seconded by Brian Linder it is hereby ordered to approve the Appointment of Jeffry Nagy as Deputy Sheriff of Grant County, Kentucky, effective

March 12, 2007, as requested by Sheriff Chuck Dills, at an Annual Salary of \$26,500.00 plus KLEFPF pay upon the completion of the police Academy.

The following votes were taken: Richard Austin, Magistrate 1<sup>st</sup> District, votes Yes; Brian Linder, Magistrate 2<sup>nd</sup> District, votes Yes; Bobby Young, Magistrate 3<sup>rd</sup> District, votes Yes; and Hon. Darrell Link, County Judge/Executive, votes Yes.

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Judge Link announced that Open discussion for the “Good of the County” would be at this time and said that anyone who wanted to address the Court could do so. Judge Link first gave a detailed update on his trip to Washington DC last week. He said that the Kentucky Enquirer had a story on the front page which gave a very good update on the progress they made, not only in Washington but also in Frankfort on the number of people that are committed to assisting in the expanding of Lake Williamstown, including Congressman Davis, Senator Bunning, Senator Damon Thayer, Rep. Royce Adams and Governor Fletcher. He said that the commitment is there. Everybody recognizes that it is a worthwhile project and a lot of commitment has been made for funding that he is hopeful we will receive maybe within the next year or two. Everyone continues to work hard on this Project. It was a very fruitful conversation that they had, not only with Congressman Davis, but they also informed the other Congressmen in the Greater Cincinnati area. He personally presented, not only to Congressman Davis, but to Congressman Chandler and to Congresswoman Jean Schmidt. He informed her and pointed out to her that certainly we weren’t going to seek her help for funding, but she needed to be aware of the project and that she probably has many constituents that do own summer homes on the lake and that they may call her and advocate that she assist Congressman Davis in soliciting funding. That is how he presented that to her along with others who made the same presentation to Congressman Chabot and many other

Congressmen in greater Cincinnati. He said it was well received, and he thought that the newspaper writer, Patrick Crowley, did a very honorable job in the coverage he gave on the first page. He also heard that Channel 9 did a story at the 5:30 or 6:00 PM hour and gave a very favorable report too, so we can continue to make progress. He would like to say that they made progress on the Bridge Spence Bridge but they ran into, no pun intended, a little bottleneck there. He said they left for Washington Wednesday morning about 5:00 AM and landed in Washington about 9:00 AM and was immediately given a briefing. They took them to The Hill at noon and spent all afternoon on The Hill making presentations to various Congressmen. That evening they were taken back to the Hong Kong Presidency where they had hors d'oeuvres and were able to listen about the economic status of Hong Kong. He said they don't have an Embassy there, but they have a presence there and they are staffed. It was very interesting to him the many things they have accomplished in Hong Kong in that the square miles of Hong Kong is 400 square miles. That rang a bell with him because Grant County is 400 square miles. They have over six million people in their 400 square miles and we only have 25,000. He was real curious about what they did with things like their sanitation and trash and they have a lot of challenges. On the upside is that they have very little taxation. They also require every person that works in Hong Kong to put aside at least, no, at a maximum of 10% into a pension plan. So every person that works at a maximum would put 10% into a pension plan fund. Should they leave the country they are able to pull those funds out and take them with them. He thought that was a pretty flexible approach. They also provide for a 100% health care for all their people in Hong Kong, so it sounds like they do some very progressive things. They perceive themselves of having a similar economy

to the United States. It is not a whole lot of manufacturing. Most of it has moved to the service industry. A lot of it they see themselves as being the front door into the China economy. So people who want to do business with China many times will set up a presence in Hong Kong and they will represent their interests in the China-Hong Kong relationship that they have there. He said it was a very interesting presentation and gave him a different and positive perspective on what is taking place in Hong Kong and our global economy and how that is supported in the United States. He said that was on Wednesday, and he was back in his motel room by 9:00 PM and did not leave the hotel room so we won't hear about any embarrassing things. He awoke at 6:00 AM on Thursday morning. They had a 7:30 Breakfast with Senator Jim Bunning who gave his philosophical view of the world and also what is taking place in Washington DC and his comments were quite interesting. After breakfast they were taken to The White House and were given a briefing by Scott Jennings who at one time worked for Senator McConnell. He now works directly under Karl Rove as a Special Assistant to the President of the United States. He gave them a very interesting briefing. You have to be very much interested in the political operations on both sides of the aisle, but Scott Jennings is a wonderful analyst on what is taking place in our country on both sides. He thought Mr. Jennings gave a very neutral, well prepared readout on what is taking place and people who are wanting to ascend to the Presidency whether it be Rudy Giuliani, John McCain or Mitch Romney on that side. He talked about some of their views and how some of them are more liberal than anybody that we may have on the left, and he also talked about the chances of Senator Clinton, Senator Obama and some of the others that have filed on that side for the Presidency of the United States. He gave a well

prepared analysis of what just took place in November as to why we saw the changes in The House, related those to certain events, not all being about the Iraq War. Some of it was corruption, mainly as in Scott's words, the Country was concerned about the corruption that had taken place, and said that should be a wake up call for everyone. He did a wonderful job and Judge Link said he could have listened to Scott another couple of hours and to his readout on the political landscape in Washington. He said that they play politics in a whole different level in Washington DC, one that he is not accustomed to but one that is very intriguing. They shoot from afar. Sometimes you don't know the missile is coming in Washington DC. After that presentation they had lunch and Secretary of Transportation Mary Peters came and spoke to them. They talked to her about the chances of relocating the Brent Spence Bridge and the timeline. She didn't give a very optimistic response to the request or that request for a timeline. She basically said that the Transportation Fund was going to be running a deficit by 2009 and that we were probably going to have to do some very creative things to replace that bridge, so that is going to spur a great deal of thought because that is a huge cost to replace that bridge. He is sure there were about sixty people in the room thinking about the comments she made. After that they again went back to The Hill and he made the presentation to Congresswoman Jean Schmidt that afternoon. The only interesting thing that happened to him is he got on an elevator and was coming down from the second floor to the first floor, the door opened and Richard Simmons, the Exercise guru, got on the elevator, and he was immediately recognizable. He still has that large Afro. He said that he told a couple of people that Richard Simmons got on the elevator with him, and they wanted to know if he had on his work suit. Magistrate Linder asked if they were on the elevator alone, and

Judge Link immediately said “We weren’t”. He said that they had witnesses, and said that you will see in the Sunday paper that Judge Bertram was quoted as saying publicly that he was on the elevator with him, but you won’t see his quotation in the paper because he kept that quiet. He said that they were then taken back to the Airport about 5:00 PM and they got on the plane at 6:00 PM. They weren’t able to take their seat belts off, nor were they served. As they were flying back Thursday night they ran into all the wind that he said we were experiencing here locally and it was quite a bumpy flight. He said that the person to his left engaged him in conversation all the way home, and it helped because it preoccupied his mind and he wasn’t so concerned about being tossed and turned about in the air. They landed about 7:30 PM, and he was home by 9:00 PM. He said it was a labor intensive well planned two days and he appreciated the opportunity to go and he feels that they made progress and thinks it is worthwhile. He hopes over the next three years that one of the Magistrates can accompany them on the trip so they can help keep this going, perhaps starting with Magistrate Young since he has never been to Washington. He then asked if the Court had anything to discuss. Magistrate Austin mentioned The Biggest Winner Fitness Program kicking off here in Grant County and said he was going to get involved. Judge Link said he had also picked up some weight too over the winter and would have to get involved in that also. He reported that he had received a call from a Reporter at the Kentucky Enquirer and they were interested in that as well. He said that Kentuckians can surely be healthier. He read that there is only one other state that smokes more than us, and so we smoke too much. We are eating far too much, and there is a great deal of obesity in the Commonwealth of Kentucky. We can be healthier. We can start earlier. He said that when he went to school President John F.



Kennedy had a fitness program. He actually would send badges or certificates for kids that would do so many sit ups or push ups, and they actually did those and a number of kids received that award from the President of the United States. So it was recognized then as a country. He said that we could be better fit. It shows up in our workplace and our insurance. It is something to pay attention to and his office will try to provide as much leadership as possible. He won't say we will set the best example but we will try. He is sure Tabatha will have a well prepared and well run program. She is engaged comprehensively across the Board with many other agencies including the Health District, The Extension District, and people within the school systems as well, so you will see a lot of enthusiasm in trying to get the message out there. He doesn't see any way we can fail even if we don't lose a great deal of weight. At least thru education and information standpoint it will make people aware, so there will be success in that.

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Judge Link reminded the Fiscal Court that there will be a Caucus meeting at 5:30 P.M. on Monday, March 12, 2007, and that the next meeting of the Fiscal Court will be on Monday, March 19, 2007, at 7:00 P.M.

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Motion of Richard Austin and seconded by Bobby Young it is hereby ordered to Adjourn until Monday, March 19, 2007, at 7:00 P.M.

The following votes were taken: Richard Austin, Magistrate 1<sup>st</sup> District, votes Yes; Brian Linder, Magistrate 2<sup>nd</sup> District, votes Yes; Bobby Young, Magistrate 3<sup>rd</sup> District, votes Yes; and Hon. Darrell Link, County Judge/Executive, votes Yes.

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GRANT COUNTY JUDGE/EXECUTIVE